



19<sup>th</sup> January 2012

To: CALA Member groups accessing free PVG checks through CALA and CRBS

Since the late Autumn of last year CALA has been in discussion with the Central Registered Body in Scotland (CRBS) around our growing concerns with the emerging changes in the interpretation of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) legislation and its impact on the voluntary early years groups.

Previously all voluntary run centres have been able to access free Enhanced Disclosures for all adults working as volunteers in their sector. For early years groups this has made a positive contribution to reducing running costs and ensured positive partnership with parents as committee members, rota parents etc. have been able to access the disclosure process and continue to support their group without fear of charges. CALA has supported our members by administering this process on their behalf.

Within the 2007 ACT it states that a qualifying voluntary sector organisation is an organisation which is not a further education institution, a school, a public or local authority, or which is not under the management of a public or local authority.

Early Years voluntary groups in partnership with their local authority to deliver early years education are increasingly now being defined as "schools" and as such are now being asked to meet the full cost of £59 per person to cover PVG Membership costs.

Given the turn around of parents and volunteers within the early years sector this is a very significant and ongoing cost that voluntary groups will now have to meet.

CALA is writing to the Scottish Government raising our concerns about the potential damage these additional charges will bring to the longer term sustainability for early years services within the voluntary sector.

I am writing to ask you to bring this to the attention of your local MP and/or MSP seeking their support to overturn what we hope has been an unintentional consequence of the new legislation.

Please let us know what response you receive.

Yours sincerely

*Ann Brady*

**Ann Brady**  
**Chief Executive**

